



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Wildlife Bureau
PO Box 200701
Helena MT 59020-0701
June 9, 2011

Dear Interested Person:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is requesting public comment on proposed 2011 Deer, Elk and Antelope quota changes outside biennial ranges, 2011 Furbearer quotas, and 2011 Bison Quotas and Season Structure. These proposed items were adopted for public comment by the FWP Commission at its June 9, 2011 meeting. Proposed specifics, comment process and comment deadlines are all listed below. Note specific comment deadlines for each topic.

PROPOSED 2011 DEER, ELK AND ANTELOPE QUOTA CHANGES OUTSIDE BIENNIAL QUOTA RANGES

Mule Deer

Below are proposed changes from 2010 mule deer quotas and biennial ranges. All other deer quotas will be unchanged from 2010 levels or adjusted within current biennial ranges. (MD = mule deer.)

Region 4

410-00: decrease antlerless MD B licenses from 25 to 5; adjust range from 25 – 600 to 5 – 600
417-00: decrease antlerless MD B licenses from 50 to 5; adjust range from 25 – 600 to 5 – 600
419-00: decrease antlerless MD B licenses from 50 to 5; adjust range from 25 – 400 to 5 – 400
426-00: decrease antlerless MD B licenses from 50 to 5; adjust range from 25 – 700 to 5 – 700

Region 7

007-13: decrease antlerless MD B licenses from unlimited to 2500 (license sold first come first served until exhausted)

Elk

Below are proposed changes from 2010 elk quotas and biennial ranges. All other elk quotas will be unchanged from 2010 levels or adjusted within current biennial ranges

Region 2

210:80: increase antlerless B licenses from 300 to 600; adjust range from 5 – 400 to 5 – 600
211-80: increase antlerless B licenses from 150 to 300; adjust range from 5 – 200 to 5 – 300

Region 3

314-80: decrease antlerless B licenses from 1000 to 200; adjust range from 1000 – 2000 to 200 – 2000

Antelope

Below are proposed changes from 2010 antelope quotas and biennial ranges. All other antelope quotas will be unchanged from 2010 levels or adjusted within current biennial ranges.

Region 6

630-00: decrease ES licenses from 150 to 10; adjust range from 50 – 500 to 10 – 500

630-10: decrease D/F licenses from 10 to 5; adjust range from 100 – 200 to 5 – 200

670-00: decrease ES licenses from 350 to 25; adjust range from 200 – 500 to 25 – 500

670-10: decrease D/F licenses from 25 to 10; adjust range from 15 – 200 to 10 – 200

Region 7

700-00: decrease ES licenses from 11,000 to 9000; adjust range from 11,000 – 15,000 to 9000 – 15,000

700-10: decrease D/F licenses from 2000 to 500; adjust range from 1600 – 11,000 to 500 – 11,000

PROPOSED 2011 FURBEARER QUOTAS

Below are proposed changes from 2010 furbearer quotas. All other furbearer quotas proposed to be unchanged from 2010 levels.

Trapping District 3

Increase bobcat quota from 200 to 250

Trapping District 5

Decrease bobcat quota from 400 to 300

Trapping District 7

Decrease bobcat quota from 800 to 600

PROPOSED 2011 BISON QUOTAS AND SEASON STRUCTURE

No license quota changes are proposed from 2010 license quotas. Archery equipment is to be added as a legal means of take in existing time periods and hunting districts per 2011 legislative action. The Eagle Creek portion of HD 385 north of Gardiner is proposed to be expanded to the north and west (proposal legal description below). For comparison, see 2010 bison regulations online at fwp.mt.gov on the Hunting Home Page under Regulations/2010 Regulations.

Gardiner Basin Portion of HD 385 (proposed to replace Eagle Creek portion, safety closure still in effect)

Beginning at the boundary intersection of Yellowstone National Park and the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness just east of Gardiner, then northerly and westerly along said Wilderness boundary to USFS Trail #64 near the Bear Creek campground, then northerly along said trail to the intersection with USFS Trail #62, then northwesterly along USFS Trail #62 to the watershed divide east of Monitor Peak, then northwesterly along the watershed divide over Monitor Peak to Red Mountain, then southwesterly along the watershed divide to Dome Mountain, then southwesterly in a direct line to the bison-resistant cattle guard across U.S. HWY 89 in Yankee Jim Canyon, then southerly in a direct line to crest of watershed divide between Sphinx Creek and Tom Miner Creek Basin, then southerly along the watershed divide over Black Mountain to the boundary of Yellowstone National Park at Shooting Star Mountain, then generally east along the Yellowstone National Park boundary to the boundary intersection of Yellowstone National Park and the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness just east of Gardiner, the point of beginning.

COMMENT PROCESS AND DEADLINE

For further clarification, you may call the Wildlife Bureau office at 406-444-2612. To submit comments electronically, this letter with the imbedded links below can be found under “Opportunity for Public Comment” on the Hunting home page at the fwp.mt.gov website. Written comments can be sent to: FWP – Wildlife Bureau, Attn: Public Comment, POB 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701. The public comment deadline for the 2011 Deer, Elk and Antelope quota changes outside biennial ranges is 5 PM, Monday, July 11, 2011. Any Final adoptions for these items are scheduled to take place at the July 14, 2011 FWP Commission meeting in Big Sky. The public comment deadline for the 2011 Furbearer quotas and 2011 Bison quotas and season structure is 5 PM, Monday, July 18, 2011. Any Final adoptions for this item is scheduled to take place at the August 11, 2011 FWP Commission meeting.

PROPOSED 2011 DEER, ELK AND ANTELOPE QUOTA CHANGES OUTSIDE BIENNIAL QUOTA RANGES (*Deadline 5 PM July 11, 2011*)

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2011deaQuotas.html>

PROPOSED 2011 FURBEARER QUOTAS (*Deadline 5 PM July 18, 2011*)

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2011furbearerQuotas.html>

PROPOSED 2011 BISON QUOTAS AND SEASON STRUCTURE (*Deadline 5 PM July 18, 2011*)

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2011bisonQuotas.html>